

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /067 W

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R 151550Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1424

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EG

SUBJECT: SADAT/MAR'I TALKS ON DOMESTIC PROBLEMS

1. CAIRO PRESS JAN 15 REPORTS OUTCOME OF DISCUSSIONS PREVIOUS DAY BETWEEN SADAT AND PEOPLES ASSEMBLY SPEAKER MAR'I ON THREE TOPICS: ASU, PRESS REORGANIZATION, AND DOMESTIC ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS, PEOPLES ASSEMBLY REPORT ON ASU REORGANIZATION STRESSES NECESSITY OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESION WITHIN ASU AS CURRENTLY CONSTITUTED.

3. MAR'I REPORTEDLY ANNOUNCED HE INFORMED SADAT OF PROGRESS IN FORMING A HIGHERPRESS COUNCIL TO BE CHARGED WITH TASKS OF "PERMITTING" EGYPTIAN PRESS TO UNDERTAKE ITS INFORMATION ROLE, DRAFT A PRESS CODE, AND OVERCOME SUCH CRISES AS CURRENT NEWSPRINT SHORTAGE. MAR'I STATED PRESS FREEDOM WOULD BE ENHANCED, NOT DIMINISHED, BY ESTABLISHMENT NEW COUNCIL.

4. THIRD TOPIC REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED WAS INTERNAL ECONOMIC CRISIS. PAPERS SAY SADAT DIRECTED PEOPLES ASSEMBLY TO ADDRESS FOLLOWING PROBLEMS: PRICE AND WAGE POLICY, BOTTLENECKS IN  
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DISTRIBUTION OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES, TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC

SERVICES PROBLEMS, EFFECTIVENESS OF ILLICIT GAINS LAW, TAXATION SYSTEM, AND "PARASITIC INCOMES". MAR'I WILL REPORTEDLY MEET WITH HEGAZI TO CONSIDER HOW BEST TO INCREASE QUANTITIES OF ESSENTIAL GOODS AND INSURE FAIR DISTRIBUTION. SADAT REPORTEDLY IS CONSIDERING "WIDENING SCOPE OF RATION CARD USE" TO AVOID UNFAIR DISTRIBUTION.

5. COMMENT: IT APPEARS NOW ASU AND PRESS REORGANIZATION WILL NOT MEAN VERY MUCH. PRESS COUNCIL WILL BE GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR SELF-CENSORSHIP AND RECOMMENDATION IS BEING MADE TO PRESIDENT THAT JOURNALISTS SHOULD BELONG TO COUNCIL BUT NOT NECESSARILY RETAIN THEIR NOW COMPULSORY MEMBERSHIP IN ASU. AS FOR INTERNAL PROBLEMS, PUBLICITY GIVEN TO SADAT'S INSTRUCTIONS TO MAR'I INDICATE PRESIDENT'S DESIRE DEMONSTRATE HIS PERSONAL CONCERN THAT ECONOMIC DISTRESS BE ALLEVIATED RAPIDLY, WITH OBVIOUS PURPOSE OF BUYING MORE TIME TO SOLVE THESE KNOTTY PROBLEMS.  
MAESTRONE

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## Message Attributes

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